WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of formula I:

$$R^{1}$$
 X $CO_{2}R^{3}$ R^{2}

I;

wherein

 R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, OH, cyano, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, CF_3 , halo or $NR^4R^{4'}$;

 R^3 is H, C_1 - C_6 alkyl;

 R^4 is H, COR⁵, SO₂R⁶, or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

 $R^{4'}$ is H or C_1 - C_6 alkyl;

R⁵ is H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R⁶ is H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

X is a 5 membered aromatic heterocycle that is optionally substituted with C1-C4 alkyl; wherein said heterocycle contains at least two or three heteroatoms selected from N, S and O wherein at least one heteroatom must be N and wherein said heterocycle may not be 1,3,4-oxadiazole;

n is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7; or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

- 2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, OH, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, CF_3 , halo or $NR^4R^{4'}$ and wherein X is not substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl.
- 3. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein \mathbb{R}^3 is H.
- 4. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 of the formula:

$$\begin{array}{c} R^1 \\ R^2 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} O \\ N \end{array} \begin{array}{c} (CH_2)_n - CO_2R^3 \end{array}$$

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

- 5. The compound of claim any one of claims 1-4 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, $O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl) or OH, R^3 is H and n is 2, 3, 4 or 5, or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.
- 6. The compound of any one of claims 1-4 wherein: R¹ is selected from OH or NH₂ and is at the ortho-position relative to heterocycle X; R² is selected from OCH₃ and H and is at the para-position relative to heterocycle X; and R³ is H.
 - 7. A compound which is:

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

8. A compound which is:

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

9. A compound which is:

$$H_3CO$$
 OH
 O
 OO_2H

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

10. The compound of any one of claims 1-3 of the formula:

$$R^2$$
 CO_2R^3
 CO_2R^3

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

- 11. The compound of claim 10 wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently H, $O(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or OH, R^3 is H and n is 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.
 - 12. A compound which is

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

13. A compound which is

or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a compound of any one of claims 3, 5-9 or 11-13 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof; and

b) a GLP-1 compound.

15. The composition of claim 14 wherein the GLP-1 compound is Val⁸-Glu²²-GLP-1(7-37)OH.

- 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
 - a) a compound of any one of claims 3, 5-9 or 11-13 or a pharmaceutical salt thereof; and
 - b) an MC4 agonist peptide.
- 17. The composition of claim 16 wherein the MC4 agonist peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

Ac-Arg-cyclo[Cys-Glu-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Cys]-NH2;

Ac-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Cys]-NH2;

Ac-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-penicillamine]-NH2; and

N-cyclohexanecarbonyl-cyclo[hCys-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-penicillamine]-NH2.